

Guns and Cocaine

In the summer of 1981, DEA New York Special Agent Pat Shea received information from a previous reliable informant about a cache of Cocaine he had seen in a Queens apartment the night before. After obtaining a Search Warrant, Agent Shea and his group raided the apartment and arrested its Colombian occupants. Seized at the time were three Kilograms of Cocaine and numerous handguns.

After securing the prisoners in the "lock up" for processing, a gratified Agent Shea displayed the evidence on a table in the group area to be photographed and for all to see. Hearing of the seizure, Associate Special Agent in Charge Tom Cash left his desk in the "front office."

"What do you have there Mr. Shea? Kiddie Dope?" Tom Cash inquired. Since the realignment of priorities, the likable Tom Cash had taken to referring to Cocaine by the uncomplimentary nickname previously used for Dangerous Drugs.

"No Mr. Cash," Special Agent Pat Shea responded with indignation. "Its Cocaine. What was I supposed to do leave it there?"

A little lost for words, the normally gregarious Tom Cash said nothing.

Dramatically pointing at the table, Special Agent Pat Shea continued with more conviction. "Those guns don't say Cocaine on them...do they?"

An agreeing Tom Cash turned and went back to his office. Tom Cash would later become the Special Agent in Charge of the Miami Field Division, the undisputed Cocaine capitol of the United States at the time.

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